1. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Mask called the meeting to order at 10:00 o’clock a.m. Members present: Chairman Mask, and members Beck, Lucas, and Mabry. Member Mull was absent due to business obligations. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Clerk Herrmann and Public Works Director Adair.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Chairman Mask led the Pledge.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Beck moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Mabry second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL. Mr. Mabry moved to approve the August 21, 2018 and September 6, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Beck second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS. There were no public comments.

6. COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION.

A. Dr. Susan Libes, Coastal Carolina University. Dr. Libes written report was presented by Chairman Mask, a copy is on file.

B. Ms. Lisa Swanger, CWSEC. Flyers presented by Ms. Swanger were discussed. The committee CONCURRED to distribute them as public service announcements.

C. Director Adair, Public Works. Mr. Adair updated the commission on DHEC ocean water testing procedures; departmental operations, and future capital projects. This particular season experienced extraordinarily high rainfall. A discussion was held regarding high bacterial counts that might be a result of rain flushing the town; low lake levels, or something as natural as a flock of seagulls soiling the beach just before testing. Long term data is beneficial to establish standards, but actually determining the source would require upstream testing. A discussion was held regarding a stormwater utility fee which the committee recommended to council several years ago. Updated information is being gathered and will be brought to the committee for another recommendation to council. Mr. Adair believes councilmembers will be more receptive to the fee because of recent flooding in the area resulting from Hurricane Florence, and other storm events. Mr. Beck noted that the town collected five mils in the past for stormwater. It might be helpful to be able to compare the new fee to that amount to put it in perspective. Mr. Mabry suggested that stormwater fees be managed through an enterprise fund to protect it from being expropriated. Mr. Adair said stormwater utility fees are governed by laws and may only be used for stormwater operations, maintenance and upgrades. The recommendation will include collecting the fee on the annual property tax bill, and amounts would be based equitably based on density.

7. BUSINESS

A. Town Council Stormwater System Tour Planning. The tour is scheduled for early November. Town Council, the committee, Dr. Libes, Ms. Swanger, and the water quality testers will be invited to attend. Ms. Lucas asked if a map showing drainage flow and pipe locations was available. Mr. Adair said the town’s maintenance maps would be sent to all members showing pipes and ditches, but there was not a flow chart.

B. Committee Feedback on SW Booth at Surfside’s October 6 Fall Festival. Members reported that the presentations were very effective at drawing the public, and believed the same ones should be used again.
C. Discuss ideas for 2019 Surfside Beach Resident SW Education Meetings. Chairman Mask said the only mandate was to have outreach on the subject. During discussion the member decided that it was best to attend festivals or other town events to share stormwater information. It was proven that holding seminars in council chambers were ineffective.

D. 2019 Meeting Calendar. After a discussion, the committee decided to meet at 2:00 p.m. at its quarterly meetings. Clerk’s Note: The January 2019 meeting will be on the 23rd to accommodate members’ vacation and work schedules. Other meeting dates are April 16; July 16, and October 15. The committee chairman or public works director Adair may call other meetings as needed.

8. DISCUSSION. Any items of interest to Committee Members. There was no other discussion.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Ms. Melanie Mask, 10th Avenue North, suggested inviting those who complained about stormwater issues to participate in the tour, which would give them a better understanding of how and why the system works, and the stormwater fee should be discussed during the tour as an introduction to the fee and to build support. Make a film of the tour, show it multiple times to people who have stormwater issues; get a poop fairy costume or poop emoji shirts to wear at festivals to bring attention to the booth.

10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS. There were no comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Beck moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m. Mr. Mabry second. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared and submitted by,

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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: January 23, 2019

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Ron Mask, Chairman

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Alan Beck, Committee Member  Carol Lucas, Committee Member

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P. L. Mabry, Committee Member  Tabitha Mull, Committee Member

Clerk’s Note: This document constitutes action minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive to town hall. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town’s email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.